submitted that there is no hope of reduction of the evil if the so-called "legitimate consumer" is looked upon with compassion. In this country nobody can be characterised as a legitimate consumer. Drinking has been condemned by all religions alike. It is also necessary to have the toddy and liquor shops far away from the crowded places and to gradually reduce their number.

The members are thankful to Government for having reduced the number of shops, but further reduction was possible, as there were too many facilities for drink.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 190.

Bagani trees on hiduvali lands.

Mr. Ranganna, Manjarabad taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The question of permitting landholders in the malnad to tap Bagani trees on their lands for the use of their coolies may be decided early.

Reply of Government.—Cannot be granted as it is a Government monopoly.

SUBJECT No. 191.

Offences under the Excise Regulation.

Mr. D. Srikanta Rao, Devanhalli taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The present system of holding contractors responsible for offences committed by toddy and arrack vendors involves much trouble to the contractors, who are put to great inconvenience on account of the vendors not being brought to book. The consequence is that vendors realizing their safety continue in their dishonest pursuits. It is therefore requested that the existing rule in the matter may be modified and punishment meted out to the offender.

Reply of Government.—Action is being taken to suitably amend the provision in the Regulation.

SUBJECT No. 192.

A contractor's liability for the tree tax on toddy trees.

Messrs. B. Alasingrachar and Payanna, Hassan Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—According to existing rules, the toddy contractor is to pay tree tax in respect of trees on private lands marked out for tapping. In case the contractor becomes a defaulter, the owner of toddy trees marked for tapping will be held liable for the arrears, and will be proceeded against. As this is a very hard rule, it may be modified so that the owner may not be held responsible for the default of the contractor.

Reply of Government.—Will be enquired into.

SUBJECT No. 193.

Interest on excise khists.

Mr. M. Nanjundiah, North Mysore Native Planters' Association, Chikmagalur.

Summary of discussion.—The contract amount of the excise revenue is payable in twelve equal monthly instalments. To ensure punctuality in payment, the contractors are required to deposit an amount equal to two months' khists and to execute a surety bond for the payment of the instalments in time. Even with so many safeguards for the regular payment of Government dues, the contractors are charged with interest, if any instalment is not paid before the 20th of a month. This is hard. Interest may not be levied on instalments falling into arrears.